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Sent: 1/26/2018 3:03:32 PM
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Subject: [External] Appeal for Additional DEQ Public Hearings on the ACP
Attachments: Report on the ACP Failure to Demonstrate Economic Development Benefit.pdf

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Dear Governor Cooper,

I write to urge that you direct the NC DEQ to schedule at least three additional public hearings (in Robeson, Cumberland, and Johnston counties) to address the economic concerns, misleading claims, and unsatisfactory submissions of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP).

I believe that you sincerely care about the environment, as demonstrated by your courageous stand against offshore drilling. I ask that you now take strong action to protect the precious ecosystems and vulnerable populations -- indigenous people, people of color, and other, primarily poor, people in eastern NC -- along the proposed route of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. Please stand strong against the Atlantic Coast Pipeline as you have done against offshore drilling.

The Atlantic Coast Pipeline is slated to follow a profoundly questionable route across the State. Other routes were considered earlier, but like the coastal communities you have spoken out to protect, those earlier routes would have taken the pipeline closer to wealthier and less racially diverse communities. Are the poor, indigenous, and people of color to be sacrificed?

The major justification for the ACP has been economic. The company has argued that the pipeline will benefit the people of the eight counties in its path. But the thousands of pages submitted to NC DEQ have patently failed to provide persuasive data or details to

adequately support this claim. ***(Please see the attached report, "ACP Failure to Demonstrate Economic Development Benefit.")***

The NC Department of Environmental Quality has been asking ACP about this claim since last September. The ACP has repeatedly sidestepped the inquiries. So, I urgently request that the DEQ immediately hold PUBLIC hearings (one each in Robeson, Cumberland, and Johnston counties) to address the ACP's economic development claims and other key issues. These hearings will enable your office, the DEQ, and the Attorney General's office to hear public input about these important questions and to review it as a part of the 401 Water Quality Permit application.

So please, please, PLEASE authorize the Attorney General to direct the DEQ to initiate public hearings to address economic development and other concerns, claims, and assertions by the Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP).

Thank you for your attention to this very important issue.

Sincerely,

Tana Hartman Thorn

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Citizens Climate Collaborative

if not we, then who?

if not now, then when?